

REMARKS

Claims 3-9 and 11- 27 remain in this application. Claims 3, 4, 9, 11, 12, 17, and 18 have been amended. Claims 1, 2, and 10 have been canceled.

1. Drawings

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating in the accompanying form PTOL-326 that the formal drawings previously submitted have been approved.

2. Allowed Claims/Subject Matter

The Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 19-27.

The Applicant also notes with appreciation that the Examiner has indicated the subject matter of claims 3-8, 11-16, and 18 are patentable, and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In the present amendment, claim 3 has been rewritten in independent form in the present amendment. Claim 4 has been amended to depend from claim 3, and claims 5-8 also depend, in their original form, directly or indirectly from claim 3. Likewise, claim 11 has been rewritten in independent form in the present amendment. Claims 12, 17, and 18 have been amended to depend from claim 11, and claims 13-16 also depend, in their original form, directly or indirectly from claim 11. Accordingly, claims 3-8, 11-16, and 18 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

3. § 103 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 9, 10, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ichimura, et al US Patent No. 6,456,416 in view of Borrelli, et al U. S. Patent No. 6,260,388.

Claims 1, 2, and 10 have been canceled in the present amendment. Claim 9 has been amended herein to depend from claim 3 which claim is in allowable form as discussed above. Claim 17 has been amended to depend from claim 11 which claim is

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likewise in allowable form as discussed above. Accordingly, applicant believes that all claims are now in condition for allowance.


Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Applicant believes that no extension of time is necessary to make this Reply timely. Should applicant be in error, applicant respectfully requests that the Office grant such time extension pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) as necessary to make this Reply timely, and hereby authorizes the Office to charge any necessary fee or surcharge with respect to said time extension to the deposit account of the undersigned firm of attorneys, Deposit Account 03-3325.

Please direct any questions or comments to Gregory V. Bean at 607-974-2698.

Respectfully submitted,

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